The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

Communist Deceit In World Affairs And Labor Dealings Exposed by AFL

Washington, D. C.—A smashing expose of treacherous Communist methods in world affairs as well as in the treatment of workers features the current issue of "Labor's Monthly Survey," published by the AFL.

On the international front, the survey explains the significance of the current crisis in the near-east as follows:

"The Communist totalitarian state is now seeking to overrun and dominate Greece and Turkey, and thus control the narrow Dardanelles Strait which cuts through Turkey to form a gateway from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. Control of this strait has long been the goal of rulers seeking world domination. The Russian Czars sought to control it before World War I. When Communist Russia in 1941 asked for the Dardanelles as its price for continued cooperation with Hitler, Hitler's answer was to invade Russia, seize Greece, and himself reach for the Dardanelles. If the Russian Communists should succeed in overrunning Greece and Turkey, they would dominate this strategic military point, key to the trade routes of the Mediterranean. To extend their control westward to Italy, France and the rest of Europe would then be only a matter of time. They could also reach south to Suez and Africa and east to Asia Minor, India and China. The United States would soon find itself isolated and surrounded by a Communist world."

Pointing up the situation which caused President Truman to ask Congress to authorize the use of American personnel and funds for relief to Greece and Turkey, the survey said:

"Today Britain, whose military strength has safeguarded balance of power throughout the world, must withdraw her support from Greece and Turkey. The huge cost of stopping Hitler's advance, which she bore almost alone for a year and a half, has exhausted her resources. She needs all she has to build up the productivity of her industries at home. Soviet Russia is ready to move in as Britain moves out, spreading a totalitarianism more cruel and far reaching than Hitler's over countries our boys died to free.

"In similar and equally effective ways Communist minorities, with the help of the Red Army and Soviet trained police, have gained control against the will of the people in Roumania, Bulgaria, Poland and other small countries. Communism, when judged on its merits, has been defeated in every free election. Because it has nothing to offer but poverty and oppression, it can only be promulgated by force, deceit and manipulation."

Throwing new light on living conditions among the workers of Russia, the survey said:

"Although the Russian constitution gives a comprehensive list of individual rights on paper, in actual practice these rights are ignored. The will of the dictators is enforced by secret police, who are informed about every person's 'loyalty' by a network of spies. These police or 'MVD' seize and carry off to slave labor camps any persons 'who obstruct, oppose, criticize, or are suspected of secretly disliking the totalitarian Communist regime.' No one so seized, whether guilty or innocent, has any right of protest, appeal or trial by an unbiased jury or court. Only 5 percent are ever released, it is estimated. The number of slave labor camps in the USSR is so great, and the hordes confined in them so enormous, that practically every family has a close relative among the inmates.

"One reason for the Russian worker's low living standard is not far to seek: Slave labor or compulsory labor can never equal the high productive efficiency of free labor, working in a system of free initiative and enterprise. Every Russian worker is bound by the compulsory labor system. He must accept the wages and conditions imposed by bureaucrats on pain of arrest if he protests. He is tied to his job, and may not quit or strike. His union has no power to fix wages or hours.

"Before the war, the average Russian worker's living standard was lower than it had been before the days of Communism. In a recent study of prewar living standards in 34 countries made by prominent economists, Russia ranked seventh from the bottom, just above China and India. The significant fact is that today, when the democracies have converted to peacetime production and the USA is giving billions of dollars to feed and clothe the people of Europe, including those in Soviet satellite countries, the Soviet Government is now spending more on new military preparations in the east than it is on the rehabilitation of its devastated areas in the west. This is done at the certain cost of reducing living standards still further for the Russian workers."

A chart published in the survey shows that workers in this country earn enough by three hours' work to buy the food that Russian workers would have to put in nine hours to obtain. The ratio for such common articles of clothing as cotton stockings, shirts and woolen gloves ranges from 1 to 24 to 1 to 100. In other words, the standards of Russian workers are so far below those of American workers as to be almost impossible of comparison.

Despite these undeniable facts, the survey emphasized that Communist agents, penetrating into other countries in all parts of the world, including our own, dare to promise the people a "better life" and "liberation from oppressors." The survey added:

"Meanwhile the poverty, slavery, and oppression which actually exist under Communism are concealed behind the 'iron curtain.' These agents loudly condemn the evils of 'monopoly capitalism' while the Soviet state is the largest and most ruthless monopoly in the world; they cry out against periodic unemployment in capitalist countries, while more people are permanently hungry and starving in Soviet slave-labor camps than were ever temporarily hungry in the worst unemployment in any capitalist land.

"Yet by planting 'cells' of a few Communist agents among people who cannot know the truth, by stirring up discontent, raising hopes with false promises, winning key leaders by personal favors, they are able to build up a small minority group of Communist sympathizers in almost any country. Once this group is established, the Communists are expert in using it to gain control."

Hoover, FBI Head, Praises AFL For Eliminating Reds

Washington, D. C.—J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, praised the American Federation of Labor for its successful efforts in preventing Communist infiltration in his testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Affairs.

"I am convinced," Hoover said, "that the great masses of union men and women are patriotic American citizens, interested chiefly in security for themselves and their families. They have no use for Communists.

"In those instances where Communists have taken control of unions, it is because too many union men and women have been out-maneuvered and out-waited by Communists.

"The Communists have long viewed with envy the AFL. They admit they play a very small role, with only a handful of Communists active in AFL locals.

"If more union members took an active role in the affairs of their unions, it would become increasingly difficult for Communists to gain control.

"Union members can easily spot 'Red' sympathizers and party members in conventions and meetings, because they invariably drive to establish the 'party line' instead of serving the best interests of the union and the country."

Hoover and other witnesses told the committee the best safeguard against "Reds" and "fronts" is what Woodrow Wilson used to call "pitiless publicity," and that it would be unwise to make "martyrs" of them by outlawing the Communist party.

TECHNICAL ENGINEERS WIN TEXAS & PACIFIC RR BODY

Washington, D. C.—The Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Union announced an important election victory on the Texas and Pacific Railway covering Technical Engineers, Architects, Draftsmen and Allied Workers. The subordinate officials in the maintenance of way and structures department were also included.

Culminating two years of organizing effort, the Technical Engineers were granted an appropriate unit by the National Mediation Board, and proceeded to win by more than a two-to-one margin.

President F. W. Burkholder and Secretary L. R. Johnson of Local No. 205 were assisted by International Representative Stanley R. McCarthy in handling procedures during the hearings and election. Contract negotiations will now be started for the two groups.

AFL TELEGRAPHERS SERVE NOTICE OF STRIKE PLANS

New York.—The Commercial Telegraphers Union (AFL) announced filing of notice of intent to call a Nation-wide strike against the Western Union Telegraph Co. as a result of a "complete collapse of collective bargaining."

The announcement was made by Jesse A. Payne, president of the union.

He said the union would "comply with its contract" and wait out the 30-day notice period, but declined to say if the strike might occur before expiration of the present contract June 1.

Mr. Payne said the intent-to-strike notices were sent to the U. S. Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board, President Truman and the company.

Wages Lag Behind Prices Labor Dep't Report Warns

Washington, D. C.—The basic flaws in the nation's economy were graphically underscored by the latest Department of Labor report on factory earnings.

It showed that for "the third successive month," weekly earnings of workers in manufacturing industries have remained virtually unchanged—in each instance, just a shade under $47.

In other words, while prices continue to mount, wages are remaining stationary.

The picture is much blacker when compared with wartime. Back in January, 1945, "take-home" pay of industrial workers hit $47.50, highest of the war period.

Twenty-five months later, "take-home" earnings of factory employes had still not climbed back to the wartime level, but the cost of living in that period—according to the Labor Department's figures—soared over 20 percent.

Thus, workers have, in effect, taken a 20 percent "cut" in their real wages during the past two years.

There was a slight ray of hope for consumers in another Labor Department report just issued. It showed that the cost of living index declined by 2/10 of 1 percent from mid-January to mid-February.

However, the Department quickly offset that by pointing out that a temporary drop in the family food bill was responsible for the over-all downturn, but that the rise in wholesale food prices after February 15 would turn the decline into an increase in its next monthly index.

Outside of foods, nearly all other prices rose between mid-January and February, the Department said.

As typical, it cited the fact that "clothing prices advanced for the 44th consecutive month and have risen almost 80 percent since August, 1939."

Soft Coal Miners Shun Unsafe Pits As U. S. Rejects Union Shutdown Plea

Washington, D. C.—The mine safety crisis laid a strangle-hold on soft coal production with more than 300,000 miners remaining away from work after the Federal Government refused UMW President John L. Lewis' request to close all but two mines in the nation because of dangerous conditions.

At the close of the week's period of mourning for the 111 victims of the coal mine explosion at Centralia, Ill., the Coal Mines Administration reported that only about 50,000 of the 400,000 UMW soft coal miners had returned to work.

While no strike or official stoppage was in effect the miners appeared to be upholding the union's point of view that work should not be resumed in unsafe mines until they were examined by Federal inspectors and given a clean bill of health.

Government officals said they did not know what they were going to do about the shutdown, or what they could do, except to rush inspection of the mines and hope the miners would return to work once they were assured that safety precautions and regulations had been met.

Included among the closed mines were the 518 belatedly shut down by Secretary of the Interior Krug because of their unsafe conditions after Mr. Lewis had charged him with responsibility for the heavy loss of life in the Centralia disaster.

The Bureau of Mines has only 171 inspectors and it would take them six weeks or more to go over all the mines. However, if the mines are able to pass inspection, or if they can speed up installation of safety measures and devices, it is presumed that production will begin without further delay.

The union's position that it will not take the responsibility of ordering its members to go back to work in mines which are liable to blow up in their faces at any moment and cause even greater loss of life could not be challenged by any Government official, even though Krug and the Coal Mines Administration were obviously irked by the situation.

Despite angry newspaper editorials, no moves appeared in prospect for invoking the court injunction against the union and its officials on the contention that staying away from unsafe mines constitutes a strike.

Plan to Admit More Displaced Persons Into U. S. Favored on AFL Radio Forum

Washington, D. C.—A fervent appeal for action by the United States to permit a substantial number of displaced persons now living in concentration camps in Europe to come to this country was voiced over the AFL's radio forum program, "America United," over the NBC network.

Representative-at-large William G. Stratton, of Illinois, urged prompt passage of his bill based on a resolution adopted unanimously at the last AFL convention in Chicago, as the most practical solution of a situation which is becoming so grave that it may "become a cancer" affecting all Europe and international affairs.

Robert J. Watt, International Representative of the AFL, also appealed for humanitarian action to rescue the fugitives from oppression and totalitarianism "who fought the good fight and value their liberty more highly than security."

Russell Smith, representing the National Farmers Union, gave partial support to the plan while Miss Julia Fiebeger, of the United States Chamber of Commerce, expressed sympathy with the idea but was unable to make a definite commitment in view of the fact that the business organization has not taken a stand on the problem.

Explaining the provisions of his bill, Rep. Stratton said at the opening of the broadcast:

"My bill would permit 400,000 out of these approximately 850,000 displaced persons to enter this country, over a period of four years; and during those four years no more than 100,000 per year. It is based on that assumption.

"Now, in addition to letting these people in, this bill insists that they must still meet the standards set up under our present immigration laws. By that I mean they must be people that have no contagious disease; they must be people that are mentally and morally sound; and in addition, they must not be public charges when they get here—in other words, they must have a way to support themselves. They must have some sponsor and there must be some arrangement for them to live after they reach this country.

"In addition to that, I would like to point out that this 400,000 figure is considerably less than the number that would have come in during the past five years under present quotas if it hadn't been for wartime conditions. In other words, this isn't a great departure from our immigration standards. We are not trying to open the country to flood it with immigrants."

Among the 850,000 displaced persons, Mr. Watt said, about 20 different nationalities are included. Of the total, approximately 500,000 are Catholics, 250,000 Jews and 100,000 Protestants.

He emphasized that the United States Government is now supporting these people in the concentration camps and paying more than 100 million dollars a year for their upkeep. It would be a far better investment, he suggested, to permit a substantial number of these people to come here and become self-supporting and contribute to the progress of our national economy.

Mr. Smith pointed out there need be no fear of increasing unemployment by the admission of 400,000 immigrants over a period of four years, since the total number of jobs necessary to maintain full employment in this country is about 60 million and a few hundred thousands more or less will not affect employment conditions materially. Both Mr. Watt and Rep. Stratton explained, moreover that a large proportion of the 400,000 total would be women and children who would not be job-seekers. The Congressman added:

"This isn't a charitable proposition. These people have always contributed in times past to building up our country. And certainly any of these people who have survived their terrors, these people who stood up against aggression, whether Naziism or Communism, certainly are people that we need over here. They are people of character, people who can stand up against adversity, and I believe lead decent, useful lives in this country."

Taking another tack, Mr. Watt conceded that formidable opposition has developed against the immigration of displaced persons into this country. He attributed this attitude, at least in part, to a misconception regarding the political ideas of the refugees. Flaying the notion that the displaced persons are pro-Communist, Mr. Watt said:

"That is bunk. And I will tell you why. These 850,000 provide the hard core of people who have demonstrated their dislike for dictatorship; not only the Nazi form of dictatorship, if you please, but the red kind of dictatorship which we know as Communism. With the result that I am convinced that there are very, very few people among the 850,000 displaced persons who have not demonstrated that they are fighters against dictatorship and totalitarianism."

Rep. Stratton added:

"That is right; plus the fact that under this bill they would still have to be screened and meet the requirements of the present immigration laws, which will not let anyone in who does not believe in our American system of Government."

Drastic New Anti-Labor Bill Rushed To Vote By Sen. Taft

Would Sanction Court Writs to Prevent Big Strikes

Washington, D. C.—An omnibus bill, designed to run over and cripple organized labor, was submitted to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee by its Chairman, Senator Robert A. Taft, of Ohio.

This bill is a prize package in which almost every variety of anti-labor proposal is included. It strikes directly at the basic freedoms and key advantages which American workers have won by long years of struggle through their trade unions.

Nevertheless, Senator Taft gambled with his political future in offering this measure first for approval by the committee and, if that is obtained, by Congress.

According to immediate reports, the 13 members of the committee were almost evenly divided on the Taft bill. At least six of the Senators were said to be opposed to it because of its stringent provisions, with at least one other Senator doubtful.

Therefore, prompt action by the millions of organized workers of this country in writing to their Senators expressing their disapproval of such legislation might help to swing the tide against the Taft bill and defeat its evil objectives.

Outstanding provisions of the bill which Senator Taft offered tentatively to the committee include:

1—It would permit the Federal Government to obtain 60-day court injunctions against any strike held to imperil the national "health or safety," thus restoring government by injunction.

2—It would outlaw the closed shop and permit milder forms of union security only if ratified by employe elections.

3—It would prohibit secondary boycotts and jurisdictional strikes.

4—Strikes in supposed violation of contracts could be stopped by injunction and the union could be sued in the Federal courts for damages by the employer.

5—Industry-wide bargaining would be greatly restricted, if not entirely discouraged.

6—It would profoundly modify the Wagner Act in favor of employers, company unions and professional workers.

7—Unions would be made subject to unfair labor practices, including charges of coercion, and would be compelled to file financial accountings.

8—The judicial and prosecuting functions of the National Labor Relations Act would be separated and its decisions would be subjected to wider review by the courts.

9—Collective bargaining elections could be obtained by employers at their own request, foremen would be excluded from membership in unions and employers could not be required to dismiss a workman ousted from the union, except for non-payment of dues.

10—The Conciliation Service of the Department of Labor would be replaced by a new and independent Federal Mediation Service.

Finally, the measure would set up a joint committee of Congress to make a continuing study of the causes of friction in labor-management relations and to conduct investigations of internal union affairs, annual wage plans and incentive and profit-sharing schemes.

Senator Taft said at a press conference that he would request immediate consideration of his bill by the committee with the hope that a vote could be taken next week.

He and several of his colleagues are determined to rush action by Congress on anti-labor legislation, now that public hearings have been completed.

The Senator emphasized that the proposals in his bill are merely "tentative" and subject to revision by the committee. He indicated that he expected strong support of the provision arming the Federal Government with injunction powers to deal with nation-wide strikes.

Under this provision, the Attorney-General, invoking the national health and safety, could apply to any Federal District Court to issue an injunction against an actual strike or a threatened one. Once such an injunction had been issued, the men would be required to continue working for 60 days, during which time both labor and management would be under mandate to make every effort to settle their differences. If no settlement was reached after 60 days, the director of the proposed Mediation Service would report the facts to the President and the public, presumably to fix the blame for the impasse.

House Group Is Drafting Secret "Blitz" Labor Bill

Washington, D. C.—Majority members of the House Labor Committee are preparing a "secret" anti-union bill which is being described in advance as the "toughest" yet directed against labor.

This bill is expected to be put before the entire committee for a vote within a few days, yet the minority group which is more sympathetic to organized labor has received no official word as to the specific provisions.

However, by some mysterious manner, some of the more spectacular features of the new legislation which the committee will urge the House of Representatives to adopt, leaked out to the press.

According to newspaper accounts, the bill will virtually repeal the Wagner Act, displacing nearly all of it with new language and abolishing the present National Labor Relations Board for a new one stacked against labor.

The bill would also strike a death-blow at the Norris-LaGuardia Act by permitting injunctions not only against strikes, but against mass picketing, against alleged violations of contract by unions, against "unlawful, concerted activities" by unions and against any "obstruction" to an employer's premises.

Apparently, the House Committee's bill is intended to be far more drastic even than Senator Taft's omnibus bill, just submitted to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. The House and Senate committees appear to be vying with each other for the doubtful honor of which shall be first and most antagonistic to the trade union movement.

Other reported provisions of the "secret" House bill include:

1. Authorize prosecution of unions under the Anti-Trust laws for such activities as restriction of production or distribution.
2. Set up a maximum $25 union initiation fee.
3. Drastically limit picketing by Federal law.

Other sections of the bill, similar to those of the Taft Bill, would make unions liable to damage suits by employers, outlaw the closed shop, restrict industry-wide bargaining, define "unfair labor practices" by unions and substitute a new mediation agency for the Conciliation Service.

Restrictive Laws Increase Strikes In Arizona, Union Official Discloses

Phoenix, Ariz.—If anyone wants proof of the fact that anti-labor legislation provokes strife, he need only come to Arizona, according to John Murray, general representative of the Carpenters' union.

This state last year adopted a constitutional amendment outlawing "union shop" agreements and this year the legislature put through additional restrictive bills. What has been the result?

"Arizona has had more strikes in the first two months of 1947 than in the previous six years," Murray declared. "In each case, the union was forced into a strike."

The reason, he said, is that the big employers are taking advantage of the new laws to drive workers to the wall and "break union labor."

"Where a union can't be baited into a strike, the employers put on a lockout and bill it as a strike," Murray asserted. "If they succeed in their 'union-busting,' the pattern may be set for the whole U. S. A."

McCarran Charges Law Is Violated By Cut In Labor Department Funds

Washington, D. C.—Senator McCarran of Nevada accused the House of Representatives of acting to "destroy" the law by voting to wipe out the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Standards, which, he said, was set up under a specific statute.

"If we enact such a law we have to contemplate that it requires appropriations," McCarran declared. "If we destroy a statute by failing to appropriate, it is defeating the will of Congress."

McCarran spoke up after William L. Connolly, bureau director, told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that eliminating the unit's industrial safety program would leave the Government sitting "idly by" while workers are "needlessly killed and maimed."

Connolly's plea for restoration of $625,857 in funds for the bureau opened a Labor Department fight to restore a 40 percent cut which the House voted in the department's operating funds. It would sweep away scores of strike-mediation experts.

William S. Tyson, head of the solicitor's office in the department, asked the Senators to put back the $495,700 cut made by the House in allotting him $755,300.

He said his division would be forced to close seven of its 13 regional offices if the cut is allowed. The offices are at Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Nashville, Chicago, Kansas City, New York, Richmond, Birmingham, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco. He did not state which would be affected.

Although Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach had been invited to present his arguments before a Senate appropriations subcommittee, as first witness, his appearance was postponed until later.

AFL Maritime Department Hits Transfer of U.S. Ships

Chicago.—The AFL Maritime Trades Department threatened to boycott all Panamanian ships in U. S. ports unless the government halts the wholesale transfer of American vessels to Panamanian registry.

Representing 250,000 AFL maritime and transportation workers, the department also threw its support behind a new Great Lakes organizing drive of two of its affiliates, the Seafarers International Union, and the Masters, Mates and Pilots.

The convention pointed out that wartime construction of the U. S. merchant marine cost the taxpayers $20 billion and the fleet is being decimated by the transfers to Panamanian registry.

"Today the Republic of Panama," said the resolution, "has a merchant marine twice as large as it had prior to the war and by no stretch of the imagination need Panama, which is not a seafaring nation, have this type of tonnage in connection with its export and import trade. American capital and foreign countries that transferred their ships under the Panamanian flag obviously did this for several reasons, namely to save taxes, to operate ships with cheaper crews and to avoid regular steamboat inspection service. This condition not only weakens the American merchant marine and puts thousands of seamen and U. S. shipyard workers out of work, but also weakens the national defense."

TEXTILE WORKERS UNION GETS LARGE WAGE GAINS

Washington, D. C.—Wage gains amounting to $2,400,000 a year have been negotiated by the United Textile Workers-AFL with 40 companies employing 12,500 in the north and south, in Canada and the far west, the union announced.

"These wage increases," according to the UTW, "involve not merely a 10 percent boost and an 80c minimum in cotton mills but also involve substantial raises of varying kinds in hosiery, finishing, woolen and worsted mills, woven label plants, etc."

DETROIT VOTES PAY RAISE FOR TEACHERS AFTER DRIVE

Detroit.—On the insistence of the Detroit Federation of Teachers (AFL) the Detroit city council voted and Mayor Jeffries approved an addition of $2,149,000 to the budget for teacher wage raises.

The new schedule goes in effect next September and gives teachers with a bachelor degree a hiring rate of $2,775 a year and those with a master's $2,900. Top rate for bachelor degree teachers was boosted to $4,275 a year and for masters to $4,500.

JOHN J. FLYNN DIES AT 70; VETERAN LABOR LEADER

New York City.—John J. Flynn, 70, Vice-President Emeritus of the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, and Helpers International Union, died at his home here.

"Jack" Flynn, as he was affectionately known to thousands of friends in the labor movement, had been a member of organized labor for more than 50 years. He helped organize the Metal Polishers Union in 1905. He is survived by his widow, four brothers, two sisters, 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1947
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

House Group Seeks Swift Vote On Omnibus Anti-Labor Bill

Committee Backs Closed Shop Ban At First Session

Washington, D. C.—Driving toward swift action on an all-inclusive anti-labor bill, the House Labor Committee approved one-third of the measure at its first four-hour session.

Foremost among the sections endorsed by the committee majority was the provision outlawing the closed shop, one of the most cherished rights of the American union movement. The closed shop provision would make it an unfair labor practice for an employer to refuse a job to a man on grounds of nonmembership in a union.

Chairman Fred Hartley, Jr., told newsmen that on no disputed point was there a dissenting vote of more than five of the total membership of 25.

The major specific provisions approved by the committee at its initial session included the following:

Repealing substantial sections of the Wagner Act, and replacing them with "the Labor-Management Relations Act."

Requiring a waiting period of at least 30 days before a strike and forbidding strikes in any case until after the majority of all employes affected had voted affirmatively on the proposition, "Shall the employer's last offer of settlement of the current dispute be rejected and a strike be called?"

Limiting collective bargaining discussions to wages, hours, working conditions and closely related issues, thus forbidding strikes to establish the union shop.

Making supervisory employes not entitled to collective bargaining rights.

Defining as illegal sympathy, jurisdictional, "featherbedding" and "monopolistic" strikes, and secondary boycotts.

Outlawing the payment of "royalties" to unions, as collected by the United Mine Workers.

Setting up a series of "unfair labor practices" by individual employes and unions, to include efforts to compel anyone to join a union, imposition of union initiation fees of more than $25 unless specifically approved by the proposed labor-management board, refusal to members of a secret union ballot and failure to keep union financial records.

Specifically declaring as fair employer practice any statement, "argument" or "opinion" made by an employer which did not "by its own terms threaten force or economic reprisal."

Specifically declaring that an employer could "form and maintain" a committee of his employes, with which to deal on wages and so on, so long as the new board had not certified a union at his plant.

At the same time, a significant effort to moderate the tentative Senate bill now under consideration, a measure less restrictive than that which the House is to pass next week, was begun by Senator Irving M. Ives of New York.

Senator Ives, a strongly declared and strategically placed opponent of some features of the present Senate text, conferred at length with Senator Taft in what turned out to be a mutual and inconclusive attempt at persuasion.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ives reiterated his objections to outlawing the principle of the closed shop, to granting to private employers in some cases the use of the injunction against unions and to summary restriction of the bulk of industry-wide bargaining.

After making it plain that his disquiet still persisted at these points, Senator Ives commented: "I think we can yet work out something that isn't too objectionable."

He observed at the same time that he remained opposed to the omnibus bill approach.

U. S. AERONAUTICAL EXPORTS OVER 116 MILLION IN 1946

Washington, D. C.—The United States exported nearly $115,000,000 of aeronautical products in 1946, and the outlook is good for continued heavy exports, the Commerce Department reported.

A large part of last year's exports was Government surplus, but about 1400 of the planes were from new production. In addition, many of the surplus craft were converted before they were shipped.

Exports included 2343 civil airplanes, valued at $64,200,000; 59 military planes, valued at more than $1,000,000; 2490 aircraft engines, $11,800,000; $12,855,000 of aircraft engine parts and accessories, and $17,000,000 of other parts and accessories.

Ohio AFL Unions, 500,000 Strong, Open Drive to Elect Labor's Friends

Cleveland.—More than 2,000 representatives of AFL local unions from every part of Ohio, speaking for 500,000 members, went on record at a huge rally here to launch an intensive "register and vote" drive at once to weed their foes out of public office and replace them with people who will give labor a square deal.

Watchword of the movement will be: "Send a friend to Columbus, send a friend to Washington." The declaration adopted by the rally also called upon the State Legislature and Congress to "cease consideration of destructive labor measures," and "return to constructive labor legislation."

"We are the people who were extolled for our wartime patriotism, who fought on foreign shores, who gave up the right to strike, who were in the forefront of every wartime cause," the declaration added.

On behalf of these workers and their families, the unions demanded that the Ohio General Assembly and Congress, "for the sake of national harmony and in the name of American common sense, stop the hysterical attacks on bona fide union organizations composed of loyal workingmen and women."

This was in line with the declaration of principles adopted at the recent State-wide legislative conference of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, which said in part:

"For many months now, labor's foes have heaped abuse on our movement, castigating our deeds, defiling our aims. Legislation has been proposed in Congress and the General Assembly to destroy our loyal, patriotic unions. Therefore, we meet in Ohio's capital city today in somber mood.

"We are the people who are malinged every morning, every afternoon by publications spreading confusion and distrust about labor's intentions.

"Yes, we are the people who have been subjected to the sputterings and blusterings of legislators and industry heads alike—all heralding themselves as experts on labor legislation, experts on labor relationships, experts on almost everything except the fundamentals of common sense.

"We are assembled here today to request a return to fairness, a return of stability in thinking, a return of intellectual honesty; and yes, a return of common decency in considering labor laws.

"Now, today, in this time of crisis for our great labor movement, and the time of crisis for our beloved nation, we ask our fellow trade unionists: Who will rally to the cause of common sense, of fairness,, and to the challenge of freedom for the 30,000,000 workers in America, organized and unorganized?

"The answer is plain. We, the officers and members of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, must rise up with one mighty voice to protest the confusion, the evil intentions of those who would maim our movement, our people, our nation. We must discard our silence, we must cease our passive contemplation of the disaster confronting us.

"We must thrust the light of truth through the smokescreen of confusion and deception. We must become awakened politically. We must examine the actions of elected officials. We must heed politics, we must discuss legislative records with our fellow members, our wives, our relatives, our friends. We must follow the nonpartisan policy of electing our friends and defeating our enemies. We must register. We must vote. During the present crisis we must let legislative bodies know in firm, strong terms of our wishes, our aims.

"This conference today is the beginning of the fulfillment of these aims. With all our energies we shall strive for justice for the workers of Ohio, for the workers of America."

Schwellenbach Asks Senate to Restore Conciliation Funds Cut By House

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach, and Edgar L. Warren, director of the Conciliation Service, registered strong pleas before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee for restoration of funds denied them by the House.

Charging that the House, in directing him to dismiss Mr. Warren, was attempting to exercise power denied to Congress by the Constitution, Mr. Schwellenbach asserted:

"I believe that the House, by attempting to tell me whom I can hire and fire in the execution of my duties of conciliation and mediation, is attempting to exercise an executive function."

Mr. Schwellenbach said that the House's reductions, to $18,136,200 from the $31,850,700 asked by President Truman, were particularly untimely because the Labor Department, although "the smallest executive department, was facing "one of the most complicated and difficult problems in our domestic economy."

Both Mr. Schwellenbach and Mr. Warren said that the $598,400 House cut in funds for the conciliation service would reduce the Government's ability to prevent or end strikes.

If the House cuts went through, Mr. Schwellenbach said, the effect would be to cut off "services vital to the maintenance of a stabilized economy." The money is for the year beginning July 1.

Mr. Warren said that he reorganized the conciliation service with emphasis upon decentralization and that both the Senate and House gave approval last year. Now he said the House proposes to oust him for the reorganization.

Banks Held Worst Wage Law Violators

Chicago.—Banks and trust companies are among the nation's worst violators of minimum wage legislation!

That shocking fact was disclosed by Thomas D. O'Malley, regional director of the Department of Labor's Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, in a blunt address to a conference of 16 bankers' associations held in this city. O'Malley is a former Wisconsin congressman.

Many of the financial institutions are virtual sweatshops, his speech revealed. He pointed out that 20 percent of such institutions inspected by the two divisions during 1946 were found to be paying some employees less than the legal "floor" of 40 cents an hour.

That rate of violations of the minimum wage provisions is "twice as high as the national average for all industries covered by the law," O'Malley said.

Equally bad, he declared, is the fact that another 29 percent of the banks and trust firms inspected were found to have violated at least one other major provision of the law—that is, the overtime pay requirements or the restrictions on child labor or both.

CLOSED SHOP BANNED IN TEXAS

Austin, Tex.—Gov. Beauford Jester signed an anti-closed shop bill making Texas the 12th state to restore the rule of the open shop.

The Texas house had previously blocked a bill which would have outlawed the closed shop through a constitutional amendment, requiring a statewide referendum. Other states with closed shop bans on their books are: Arkansas, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia.

Britain Shuts Door On Exploitation of Laboring Children

London.—Britain closed the door on labor-hungry employers in order to open it a little wider for some 130,000 schoolboys and girls.

Resisting strong pressure, the government increased the compulsory education age from 14 to 15, carrying out on schedule the principal dream of the late education minister, Ellen Wilkinson.

Many industrialists, leading political figures of all parites, and some educators had sought to postpone the action for a year.

They argued that in its present grave condition, with a shortage of manpower in all vital industries, the nation needed the youthful laborers more than the children needed the additional year in the classrooms.

Some of the youngsters would have gone to work in April at the end of the winter term. The remainder would have been available in July. By December, 1948, it is estimated that industry will have lost 380,000 potential workers.

However, Miss Wilkinson, who died earlier this year, and her successor, George Tomlinson, with the backing of Prime Minister Attlee, refused to retreat.

"As a nation," Tomlinson said in a radio speech, "we have come to realize that we cannot afford to send our young people into the battle of life untrained and ill prepared."

CARPENTERS WIN RAISES

St. Louis.—Wage increases of 25c an hour, effective May 1, were won by AFL carpenters under new contracts reached with a majority of the 200 contractors and builders engaged in commercial work here. The new scale is $2.20 an hour.

NEW JERSEY'S LAW TO JAIL STRIKERS RAPPED BY GREEN

Washington, D. C.—The recently-passed New Jersey law, imposing fines and jail sentences upon utility employes who engage in a strike was sharply condemned by AFL President William Green, who branded it "the worst anti-labor measure ever adopted by any State Legislature."

Mr. Green, who had appealed in vain to Governor Driscoll to veto the bill, declared:

"It is totalitarian in essence, because it compels men and women to work against their wills or be punished by fines or imprisonment. The effect of such legislation would be to institute slave labor in America. It robs American workers of their basic freedoms.

"Its provisions for forced labor and compulsory arbitration violate the fundamental principles of freedom, upon which our democracy is founded, and will prove obnoxious to workers and employers alike. No State in America can afford such dangerous experiments in fascism."

The new law, rushed through the Legislature, provides fines of $10,000 a day against any striking utility unions and subjects individual strikers to fines of $250 to $500 and imprisonment up to 30 days. Each day's continuance of the strike constitutes a new offense.

Birth Rate in U. S. At Boom Height, UN Report Shows

Lake Success, N. Y.—The birth rate in the United States is undergoing the biggest boom in its history, according to figures contained in the March issue of the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.

After decreasing steadily from 1915 to a low point in 1933, the rate in the United States rose from 17.1 births per thousand inhabitants in 1937 to an annual rate of 28.8 in November, 1946. A high official of the United Nations statistical office described this increase as unprecedented in the United States.

Fifteen of the 20 countries included in the tabulation show a sharp increase in the birth rate. Only India and Egypt show any noticeable decline, while the rates in Uruguay, Chile and Belgium are static.

The trend appeared to be more closely related to economic factors than to wars, according to the official report.

Ruling Deferred On Miners' Plea To Cut Big Fine

Washington, D. C.—Justice T. Alan Goldsborough, who imposed a $3,500,000 fine on the United Mine Workers (AFL) on a charge of contempt of court, deferred for two weeks his decision on the union's plea to accept the Supreme Court's recommendation and reduce the penalty to $700,000.

The jurist postponed his decision to determine whether the union has complied fully with the Supreme Court order to call off the strike, an action already taken by UMW President John L. Lewis.

The Justice appeared perturbed about the Lewis directive to the miners to return only to mines which Federal inspectors had certified as safe.

Meanwhile, Senator O'Mahoney, Democrat, of Wyoming said Federal legislation tightening enforcement of mine safety standards is the "inevitable" result of the recent Centralia (Ill.) disaster.

The Senator, a member of the Special Public Lands Subcommittee investigating the Centralia explosion, said he agreed entirely with Secretary of Interior Krug that the Federal Bureau of Mines should be given authority to enforce its findings of unsafe mine conditions "wherever found."

8,000 ALCOA WORKERS IN THREE BIG PLANTS GIVEN ANOTHER RAISE

Pittsburgh.—The Aluminum Company of America announced a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour to 8,000 workers in three Alcoa plants.

The wage increase was embodied in a new two-year contract signed with the Aluminum Workers of America (AFL), after six weeks of negotiations in St. Louis.

Plants affected by the increase are in East St. Louis, Lafayette, Ind., and Massena, N. Y. Those plants employ approximately a fourth of Alcoa's workers.

Not affected by the increase are workers at the firm's new Kensington, Pa., plant, where the Congress of Industrial Organizations United Steelworkers is bargaining agent.

The agreement with the AFL union is retroactive to April 1. It follows a 19-cents increase granted in February, 1946.

Reduce Prices Or Raise Wages, Truman Bluntly Tells Business

High Cost of Living Blamed on Industry By Chief Executive

Washington, D. C.—Wage increases are fully justified unless business takes prompt steps to reduce prices and to make the free enterprise system work.

This was the firm declaration of President Truman in discussing the general picture of soaring prices with Washington newsmen, and came one day following a White House conference with his Cabinet and Council of Economic Advisers at which the entire economic situation, with special emphasis on prices, was explored in a session which occupied an hour and 40 minutes.

It followed also by a single day a formal statement by AFL President William Green calling upon Mr. Truman, the Cabinet and Congress to "do everything in their power to halt and reverse the rising price trend."

The President told newsmen that the Government was studying possible steps to reverse the steady price climb, but was uncertain what Federal action could be taken if the initial moral suasion efforts prove unsuccessful.

Among the approaches being examined, he said, is relaxation of the anti-trust laws to permit businesses to agree to a mutual lowering of prices without fear of prosecution, amending the farm price support programs and the field of fiscal controls. The last item was apparently a reference to taxes.

Later Attorney General Tom Clark, in a statement, announced that price reducing agreements between businesses would be given special study by the Justice Department. Declaring that the anti-trust laws do not interfere with voluntary price reductions, he added that he knew of no industry in which it would be necessary for competitors to confer in order to cut prices.

Mr. Truman seemed pleased, even anxious, to plunge into the economic discussion. His answers to questions, often on complicated phases, were fast and direct, and he did not mind stepping on toes.

He placed the blame for the present serious situation upon business and the Seventy-ninth Congress for passing what he described as an unworkable price-control bill last July 25.

Business, he added, wanted to be free of price control. Now they have to meet the situation.

"Mr. President, your position is, then, that the responsibility is now on business?" He was asked. He replied about like this:

Absolutely. Squarely on business. They wanted free enterprise. Now they've got it. Let's see them make it work.

Business profits during 1946 and the first quarter of 1947 have been very great, he added.

Mr. Truman told reporters, in answer to questions, that he did not want to revive controls and did not want to see an organized buyers' strike. He said, further, that he did not think that a recession was necessary.

Mr. Green, in the statement he issued the day before, warned:

"This is the gravest problem facing our American economy today. If prices keep swelling, the inflation balloon is bound to burst with disastrous consequences to all the American people. We dare not invite a crash and mass unemployment again. Intelligent planning and prompt action must be taken to force prices down to a more reasonable level.

"Economists are agreed that a continuation of spiralling prices is certain to result in a price collapse. The workers of our nation cannot indefinitely shoulder the heavy burden of a cost of living which impoverishes them and renders their labor profitless.

"Industrial and mercantile profits today are so high that a general reduction in prices is entirely practical even if wage rates are raised moderately. Leading merchants and businessmen have publicly advised that prices can be reduced as much as 20 percent without anybody being hurt. If this is done gradually and systematically, we can prevent a recession and maintain high purchasing power and full production. The only real remedy for suicidal inflation is high-volume production at lower prices.

"No one wants the return of Government controls on prices. But it is the duty and high function of our Government to exert leadership in the present price crisis and to clamp the brakes on inflation and start pushing prices down."

UMW Welfare Fund to Pay $1,000 Benefits To Family of Every Member Who Dies

Washington, D. C.—Decision to pay death benefits of $1,000 to the families or other beneficiaries of UMW members in soft coal employment was announced here following the first meeting of the trustees of the welfare fund.

The first benefits will start going out within the next month and will include the families of the 111 miners who lost their lives in the recent Centralia, Ill., mine blast. The $1,000 benefits will be paid regardless of the cause of death.

At the same time John L. Lewis, UMW President, and one of the trustees of the fund, declared that the union would not sign an agreement with the operators unless it provided for continuance of such a fund. He implied also that the miners would demand industry payments into the fund at the rate of 10 cents a ton, instead of the present 5-cent rate.

The fund was set up under the agreement of Mr. Lewis and J. A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior. This agreement is still operative and the fund amounts to about $18,000,000.

The anthracite workers are covered by a separate fund.

Mr. Lewis estimated that the death rate of UMW members is 6,700 a year, which means that disbursements for this purpose will be $6,700,000. The 5-cent levy at the coal production rates of the past few years will yield $25,000,000 to $30,000,000 a year.

Although other types of disbursements were not definitely agreed on, the trustees ordered a survey of individual cases of miners or their families who are destitute and in need of financial aid due to wage loss not otherwise compensated under provisions of Federal or State law, or resulting from sickness, disability, death or retirement.

Mr. Lewis termed the present revenue of the fund "insufficient to carry out all the obligations contemplated" in the union's original proposals. He listed these six objectives: Adequate and modern medical service, adequate hospitalization, life and health insurance, rehabilitation of injured mine workers, economic aid for distress cases not otherwise compensated, and cultural and educational work.

Chairman of the trustees is Thomas E. Murray, New York engineer and manufacturer, who accepted the appointment a few days ago. Mr. Murray is president of the Metropolitan Engineering Company, a director of the Chrysler Corporation.

The third trustee is Capt. N. H. Collisson, United States Navy, Federal Coal Administrator.

Reporting on current soft coal production, the National Coal Association said its reports showed output was less than 35 percent of normal. The Coal Mines Administration, whose surveys are not limited to members production exceeded 1,000,000 tons. of the NCA, reported, however, that production exceeded 1,000,000 tons. A peak day would be 2,400,000 tons.

Meany Pledges Injured Workers Full AFL Aid in Locating Jobs

Washington. — Workers who have suffered physical impairments need jobs just as other workers do, and the American Federation of Labor intends to see to it that employment opportunities are assured the nation's handicapped men and women, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany declares in the latest issue of the American Federationist.

The handicapped are depending upon the forces of organized labor and they will not be disappointed in the AFL and its constituent unions, Mr. Meany emphasizes. He cites the experience of a number of AFL organizations which have had most satisfactory results in their employment programs for workers with physical disabilities.

Mr. Meany's article lays great stress on the importance of proper placement, which he defines as "nothing more than the right man for the right job."

"A linotype operator, for example, is not required to run, jump or crawl," the AFL leader points out. "Therefore, even though a man cannot do these things, he is still able to perform his duties as a linotype operator as well as the person who can run, jump and crawl. Unnecessary physical requirements should not be placed on jobs."

Local unions are urged to write into their contracts with employers a clause requiring the hiring of handicapped workers on jobs suited to their abilities, and Mr. Meany emphasizes that this definitely does not mean "menial" jobs.

"However, unions must be warned," he adds, "not to accept any clauses which cover only part of the work force. A clause which calls for the hiring of returning disabled veterans only is not enough. The physically fit veteran today may be the disabled veteran of industry tomorrow.

"Certainly the ex-GI who has his foot smashed in the paper mill two weeks after he sheds his uniform can derive scant satisfaction from a contract that provides only for the hiring of veterans with service-incurred disabilities. A contract which protects all workers is the best protection for the veteran as well."

Mr. Meany condemns the type of clause which provides for the employer's retention of injured employes only after long seniority.

"Contract clauses should provide," he says, "that any handicapped person shall be given preference in hiring on those jobs for which his remaining physical abilities adequately qualify him and that no worker who becomes disabled shall be discharged if there is another job available for which he is physically qualified and for which he can be retrained."

Mr. Meany's call was rendered especially timely by a Labor Department report that job opportunities for the handicapped, although numerous during the war years, have recently undergone severe shrinkage.

AFL Metal Trades Calls on Labor For Intensified Safety Campaign

Washington, D. C.—A broad program in which labor, management and government would join in an intensive campaign to insure greater safety in factories throughout the Nation was proposed in the most recent issue of the Bulletin of the Metal Trades Department of the AFL.

Citing a series of disasters attributed to laxity of enforcement of regulations, the statement called for a thorough study of existing safety measures and action by Federal, State and Municipal governments to improve them and a constant insistence by labor on their enforcement.

Reviewing casualties of last year, the Bulletin article reported:

Last year, according to the best estimates available, there were killed in American industry, 16,500 workers. Another 100,000 were maimed and about two million more were temporarily disabled. The time actually lost from work, reached the staggering total of forty-seven million man-days. That is enough days to provide full-time employment for an entire year for 156,000 workers. What is more, these figures make no allowance for the economic effects of deaths and permanent impairments.

Granting that the labor movement has never failed to mention the importance of industrial safety, it has failed to emphasize it sufficiently and, of late, to give it the importance it deserves, the article said. It pointed out that as labor moves into the atomic age, where use of new materials, different types of machinery, equipment and techniques are rapidly being developed and used, workers can no longer relegate safety to a secondary consideration.

As an immediate approach to the problem of insuring greater safety, the article proposed that labor insist that management observe all existing safety requirements, press for further safety measures in bargaining agreements and initiate educational courses in safety.

Management, it said, can promote safety [illegible] eliminating fear caused by job uncertainty on the part of workers, and where employers are callous and decline to observe safety measures the use of a club is justified. Such a club could be in the form of refusal to permit workers to report at factories where hazards were known to exist.

Most states have laws requiring that employers shall provide safe places for work, the article conceded, and, although this theory is fine, in practice it cries to high heaven because of lax enforcement and indifference. Many of the regulations, also, are sub-standard, it pointed out.

LILIENTHAL APPROVED

Washington. — The Senate confirmed David E. Lilienthal as chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission by a 50-31 vote. The Lilienthal nomination was backed by the AFL.